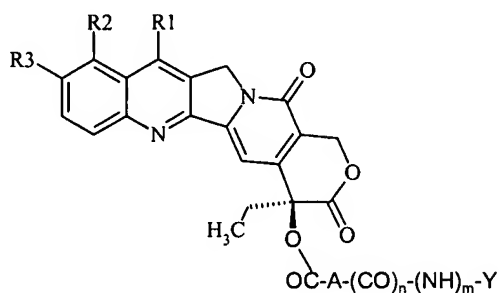


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (I)



(I)

where:

A is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, straight or branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl;

n and m are both 0;

Y is 4-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxybutanoyl, both in the form of inner salt and in the form of a salt with an anion of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid, or Y is N<sup>+</sup>R<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub>R<sub>14</sub>, as defined above;

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or a -C(R<sub>5</sub>)=N-O-R<sub>4</sub> group, in which R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen or a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkenyl group, or a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>) cycloalkyl - (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl group, or a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> aryl group, or a straight or branched (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>) aryl - (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched

heterocyclo - (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, where R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub>, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl, the -COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the -CONR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>9</sub> group, where R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub>, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl; or R<sub>4</sub> is a (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>) aroyl or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, where R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub>, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl; or R<sub>4</sub> is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or R<sub>4</sub> is a glycosyl residue; R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>) cycloalkyl - (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> aryl, straight or branched (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>) aryl - (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl; R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxyl, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy; the N1-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

22. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 21, selected from the group consisting of:

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium-3-hydroxy)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide; and

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium)butanoyl-camptothecin  
bromide;

23. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of compounds according to claim 21, where n and m are 0, comprising:

a) reaction of the camptothecin, substituted with the R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> groups defined above, with a carboxylic acid bearing a leaving group in  $\omega$  to obtain the respective ester in position 20; and

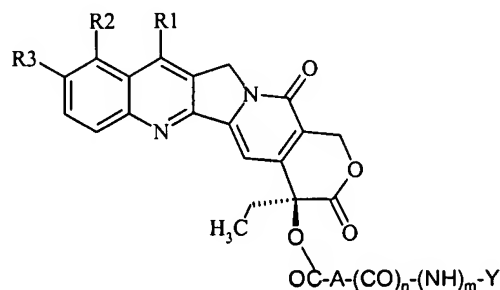
b) substitution of said leaving group with the Y group.

24. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 21, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a lung cancer comprising administering to a subject having said tumor an effective amount of a compound of claim 21.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a lung cancer comprising administering to a subject having said tumor an effective amount of a compound of the formula



where:

A is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, straight or branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl;

n and m are both 0 or both 1;

when n and m are both equal to 1, Y is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl substituted with NR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub> or N<sup>+</sup>R<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub>R<sub>14</sub>, where R<sub>12</sub>, R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub>, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen or straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, or Y is BCOOX, where B is a residue of an amino acid, X is H, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, benzyl or phenyl, substituted in the available positions with at least one group selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, halogen, nitro, amino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

if n and m are both 0, Y is 4-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxybutanoyl, both in the form of inner salt and in the form of a salt with an anion of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid, or Y is  $N^+R_{12}R_{13}R_{14}$ , as defined above;

$R_1$  is a  $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$  group, in which  $R_4$  is hydrogen or a straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl or  $C_1-C_5$  alkenyl group, or a  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched ( $C_3-C_{10}$ ) cycloalkyl - ( $C_1-C_5$ ) alkyl group, or a  $C_6-C_{14}$  aryl group, or a straight or branched ( $C_6-C_{14}$ ) aryl - ( $C_1-C_5$ ) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched heterocyclo - ( $C_1-C_5$ ) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with a ( $C_1-C_5$ ) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy,  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_5$  alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro,  $-NR_6R_7$ , where  $R_6$  and  $R_7$ , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched ( $C_1-C_5$ ) alkyl, the  $-COOH$  group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the  $-CONR_8R_9$  group, where  $R_8$  and  $R_9$ , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched ( $C_1-C_5$ ) alkyl; or  $R_4$  is a ( $C_6-C_{10}$ ) aroyl or ( $C_6-C_{10}$ ) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro,  $-NR_{10}R_{11}$ , where  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$ , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl; or  $R_4$  is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or  $R_4$  is a glycosyl residue;  $R_5$  is hydrogen, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkenyl,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, straight or branched ( $C_3-C_{10}$ ) cycloalkyl - ( $C_1-C_5$ ) alkyl,  $C_6-C_{14}$  aryl, straight or branched ( $C_6-C_{14}$ ) aryl - ( $C_1-C_5$ ) alkyl;  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxyl, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkoxy; the N1-oxides, the racemic

mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.